

Appln No. 10/815629
Amdt. Dated: February 19, 2007
Response to Office Action of January 11, 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the comments in the Office Action which has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that all issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

Claim Objections

Claim 50 has been amended as directed by the Examiner to delete the text that was included in claim 50 as a result of a clerical error.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 17, 18, 19-21, 26-40, and 50-57 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is currently amended to include the limitation of claim 17, now canceled. Claim 18 is amended to now depend from claim 1. Independent claim 45 is also currently amended to include the limitation of claim 17.

Thus, applicant submits the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-16, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 41-19 under 35 USC 103(a) is traversed by amendment of the independent claims 1 and 45.

Specification

The Applicant has amended pages 1 and 2 of the specification by deleting the paragraphs entitled "Co-pending applications" and "Cross-references to related applications" and replacing them with new updated paragraphs. The US docket numbers and US application numbers have merely been replaced by their corresponding US applications numbers or US grant numbers, where applicable. The Applicant submits that these amendments introduce no new matter.

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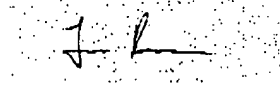
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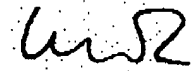
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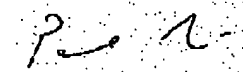
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



Jan Rusman

Kia Silverbrook

Paul Lapstun

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia
Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com
Telephone: +612 9818 6633
Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762